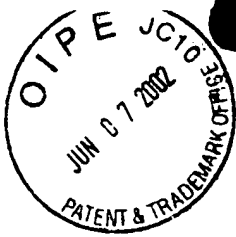


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Knowles, et al.
Appl. No. : 09/593,587
Filed : June 13, 2000
For : THERMAL INTERFACE
Examiner : Leonard R. Leo

Group Art Unit 3743

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(Date)
James F. Herkenhoff
James F. Herkenhoff Reg. No 514241

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE COMMUNICATION

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 2202

Dear Sir:

In the reply filed on December 28, 2001, Applicant added new Claims 18 and 19. Applicant subsequently received an Office Communication from Examiner Leo indicating that the reply was not fully responsive to the first Office Action as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.111. Specifically, Examiner Leo noted that the reply did not specifically point out why new Claims 18 and 19 were patentable over the prior art. Applicant respectfully submits the following comments in connection with new Claims 18 and 19.

COMMENTS

New Claims 18 - 19 Have Been Added

Applicant has added two new claims to provide a differing scope of protection for certain features of the present invention. More specifically, Claims 18 and 19 are directed to a material comprising a first plurality of fibers and a second plurality of fibers wherein at least some of the second plurality of fibers are bonded to portions of some of the first plurality of fibers. None of the prior art of record discloses a first fiber attached to a second fiber. Applicant submits that

Appl. No. : 09/593,587
Filed : June 13, 2000

these claims are not anticipated or rendered obvious by any of the cited references. Applicant also submits that the added claims are directed to the elected species of Figure 2. Consideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the omission of comments directed to new Claims 18 and 19 as set forth in the Office Communication has been obviated. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to the Office Communication. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney, James F. Herkenhoff at (619) 687-8663 (direct line) in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

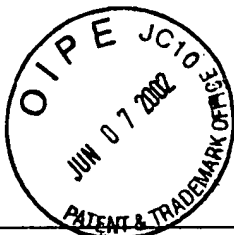
Dated: _____

6/3/02

By: _____



James F. Herkenhoff
Registration No. 51,241
Attorney of Record
620 Newport Center Drive
Sixteenth Floor
Newport Beach, CA 92660



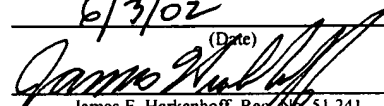
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Case Docket No. ESLABS.003A
Page 1

In re application of : Knowles, et al.
App. No. : 09/593,587
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For : THERMAL INTERFACE
Examiner : Leonard R. Leo
Art Unit : 3743

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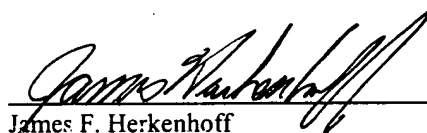
JUN 13 2002

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Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Response to Office Communication in the above-identified application.

- (X) The present application qualifies for small entity status under 37 C.F.R. § 1.27.
- (X) Return prepaid postcard.
- (X) Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.


James F. Herkenhoff
Registration No. 51,241
Attorney of Record

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